

MMWR Weekly COVID-19 Briefing for the week of August 3

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hello, I'm Charlotte Kent, Editor-in-Chief of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Thanks for joining me for *MMWR's* Weekly COVID-19 Briefing for the week of August 3rd, 2020.

This week, MMWR published reports about an outbreak of COVID-19 at an overnight youth camp, use of a novel automated technology to monitor contacts of COVID-19 patients, health outcomes among individuals who swallowed hand sanitizer containing methanol, and COVID-19 in meat processing facilities in two midwestern states.

Limited data are available about transmission of SARS-CoV-2 among children. The authors of a report published on Friday, July 31st, detailed an outbreak of COVID-19 in a Georgia overnight camp that led to at least 260 cases. To minimize the risk for SARS-CoV-2 introduction and transmission, the camp adhered to the measures in Georgia's Executive Order, including requiring all attendees to provide documentation of a negative viral SARS-CoV-2 test within 12 days before arriving. The camp also adopted many mitigation steps found in CDC Suggestions for Youth and Summer Camps. For example, they cohorted attendees by cabin and enhanced cleaning and disinfection. However, the camp did not require the campers to wear masks, only the staff. They also did not keep windows and doors open in buildings to allow circulation of outdoor air.

25 The overall attack rate among attendees was 44%, meaning that 260 of the
26 almost 600 attendees tested positive for COVID-19. Half of children 6 to 10
27 years of age developed infection.

28 This investigation adds to the body of evidence demonstrating that children
29 of all ages are susceptible to COVID-19 and, contrary to early reports,
30 might play an important role in transmission. This report underscores the
31 importance of strict adherence to CDC strategies to mitigate the spread of
32 COVID-19. Correct and consistent use of cloth masks, rigorous cleaning
33 and sanitizing, social distancing, and frequent hand washing strategies are
34 critical to prevent transmission of the virus in settings involving children.
35 These are our greatest tools to prevent COVID-19.

36 A report published on August 3rd, highlights that using automated symptom
37 monitoring, for example, through texts, was effective in monitoring contacts
38 of patients with COVID-19 in Maine.

39 According to the FDA, methanol, or wood alcohol, is not an acceptable
40 ingredient in hand sanitizers. In June, the FDA published a consumer alert
41 warning about specific hand sanitizers that contain methanol. An MMWR
42 report published on August 5th, looked at cases of methanol poisoning in
43 Arizona and New Mexico related to swallowing hand sanitizer. During May
44 and June 2020, 15 adults in these two states were hospitalized after
45 swallowing hand sanitizer containing methanol. Four of these patients died
46 and three developed vision loss.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers should never be swallowed. Children using hand sanitizers should be supervised. These products should be kept out of children's reach when not in use. If soap and water are not readily available, CDC continues to recommend use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers for hand hygiene but urges people to immediately stop using hand sanitizers recalled by the FDA. To see FDA's webpage on hand sanitizers consumers should not use, check the related links for this podcast.

Two reports published on Thursday August 6th, highlight the potential for rapid spread of COVID-19, among employees in meat and poultry processing facilities. These reports underscore why it's so important for employers to use multiple control measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 among infrastructure workers in the critical U.S. food sector. Facilities should create physical barriers between workers; screen employees for symptoms; encourage physical distancing, hand hygiene and correct and consistent use of masks; and ensure flexible sick leave policies.

Thank you for joining us for this week's briefing. To stay up to date on the latest MMWR reports on COVID-19, go to cdc.gov/mmwr and subscribe for free. You can also subscribe to this podcast at cdc.gov/mmwrpodcasts.

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